

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of


LAURA HARRINGTON-ZAUTRA, M.D.

Holder of License No. **24671**
For the Practice of Medicine
In the State of Arizona.

INVESTIGATION NO. MD-00-0495

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
TO ORDER OF PROBATION AND
LETTER OF REPRIMAND**

IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between Laura Harrington-Zautra, M.D. and the Arizona State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), that the accompanying Order be entered in the above-entitled matter and is effective as of the date issued. Dr. Harrington-Zautra acknowledges that any violation of this Order constitutes unprofessional conduct within A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(r), and may result in disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1451. Furthermore, by signing this Consent Agreement, Dr. Harrington-Zautra waives and relinquishes any right to appeal from or challenge this Consent Agreement by filing any type of administrative or judicial review of this Order.


Dated: Dec 12, 2000
LAURA HARRINGTON-ZAUTRA, M.D.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of allopathic medicine in the state of Arizona.
2. Dr. Harrington-Zautra is the holder of License No. 24671 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

1 3. On August 15, 2000, BOMEX initiated an investigation concerning Dr.
2 Harrington-Zautra prescribing controlled substances for herself and family members.

3 4. Between August 15 and August 29, 2000, BOMEX investigators contacted
4 numerous pharmacies and Samaritan Behavioral Health Center inquiring about Dr.
5 Harrington-Zautra. Staff determined that Dr. Harrington-Zautra ceased practicing at
6 Samaritan Behavioral Health on April 15, 2000. Staff determined there were numerous
7 prescriptions for Endocet, Hydrocodone/APAP, Roxicet, Apap/Hydroc and an Albuterol
8 inhaler. These prescriptions were for family members of Dr. Harrington-Zautra and for
9 herself.

10 5. On August 15, 2000, BOMEX issued a subpoena for Dr. Harrington-Zautra to
11 appear for an investigational interview on August 29, 2000. During that interview Dr.
12 Harrington-Zautra stated she fractured her spine in June 1999 and has tried to deal with
13 the pain. She stated she obtained the various prescriptions at Fry's, Fred Meyers, and
14 Basha's pharmacy. She stated she prescribed controlled medications for her daughter,
15 son and mother. She stated she self-prescribed using her daughter's name and admitted
16 posing as her daughter to pick up the prescriptions for her own use.

17 6. An interim order was issued to Dr. Harrington-Zautra to complete a drug
18 abuse evaluation program.

19 7. Dr. Harrington-Zautra went to the DEA office after the investigative interview
20 and surrendered her DEA license to DEA Investigator Tellez. The United States
21 Attorney's Office has offered Dr. Harrington-Zautra a Pretrial Diversion Program instead of
22 seeking prosecution of a violation of Title 21 U.S.C. 843 (a)(3) Obtaining Narcotics by
23 Fraud or Deceit. She has agreed to enter the Program.

24 8. Dr. Harrington-Zautra attended Springbrook Northwest for substance abuse
25 evaluation. Dr. Harrington-Zautra also met with BOMEX consultant Michel A. Sucher.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1
2 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over Dr.
3 Harrington-Zautra.

4 2. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
5 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(a) (Violating any
6 federal or state laws or rules and regulations applicable to the practice of medicine).

7 3. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
8 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(d) (Committing a
9 felony, whether or not involving moral turpitude, or a misdemeanor involving moral
10 turpitude).

11 4. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
12 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(e) (Failing or refusing
13 to maintain adequate records on a patient).

14 5. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
15 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(g) (Using controlled
16 substances except if prescribed by another physician for use during a prescribed course of
17 treatment).

18 6. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
19 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(h) (Prescribing or
20 dispensing controlled substances to members of the physician's immediate family).

21 7. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
22 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(j) (Prescribing,
23 dispensing or administering any controlled substance or prescription-only drug for other
24 than accepted therapeutic purposes).

1 8. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
2 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(p) (Sanctions
3 imposed by an agency of the federal government, including restricting, suspending,
4 limiting or removing a person from the practice of medicine or restricting that person's
5 ability to obtain financial remuneration).

6 9. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
7 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(q) (Any conduct or
8 practice which is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the
9 public).

10 10. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
11 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(s) (Violating or
12 attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or
13 conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter).

14 11. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
15 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(t) (Knowingly making
16 any false or fraudulent statement, written or oral, in connection with the practice of
17 medicine...).

18 12. The conduct and circumstances described above in paragraphs 4 and 5
19 constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(kk)(failing to dispense
20 drugs and devices in compliance with article 6 of this chapter.

21 **ORDER**

22 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Interim Order issued on August 29, 2000,
23 is vacated. Furthermore, Dr. Harrington-Zautra is hereby issued a Letter of Reprimand for
24 the conduct described above. In addition, Dr. Harrington-Zautra is placed on probation for
25 five (5) years with the following conditions:

1 1. Dr. Harrington-Zautra shall comply with the terms and conditions of the
2 Pretrial Diversion Program described in the November 1, 2000 letter from Roger Dokken,
3 Assistant United States Attorney. Dr. Harrington-Zautra shall advise the Board of the
4 terms and conditions of the Pretrial Diversion Program and shall advise the Board of her
5 completion of the Program or termination from the Program. Dr. Harrington-Zautra agrees
6 to direct the Program to release information to the Board.

7 2. Laura Harrington-Zautra, M.D., shall obtain 20 hours of Board staff pre-
8 approved category 1 CME in prescribing controlled substances. This shall be in addition
9 to the required CME for license renewal.

10 3. Laura Harrington-Zautra, M.D., shall attend 2 AA/NA meetings per month for
11 four months for educational purposes.

12 4. Laura Harrington-Zautra, M.D., shall complete co-dependency treatment as
13 recommended by Springbrook Northwest within 60 days and follow all discharge
14 recommendations from Springbrook Northwest.

15 5. Laura Harrington-Zautra, M.D., shall, within 60 days, develop and follow a
16 treatment and pain management program with a pain management physician approved by
17 Board staff. This physician shall provide quarterly written progress reports to Board Staff
18 on the 15th of March, June, September and December of each year.

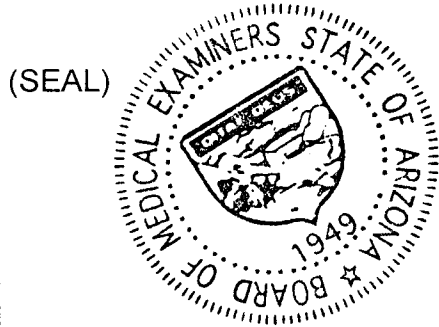
19 6. Laura Harrington-Zautra, M.D., may apply for her DEA license to be effective
20 no sooner than one year after her voluntary DEA license surrender on August 29, 2000,
21 upon written proof to the Board that she has completed Terms 1 through 5 of this Order.

22 7. One year after the effective date of this Order, Laura Harrington-Zautra,
23 M.D., may submit a written request to the Executive Director requesting that the Board
24 terminate her probation at one year. The Board's decision to terminate will be based upon
25

1 Dr. Harrington-Zautra's compliance with the terms of probation, including her participation
2 in the Pretrial Diversion Program.

3 DATED this 5th day of December, 2000.

4 BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
5 OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA



7 By Claudia Foutz
8 CLAUDIA FOUTZ
9 Executive Director
10 TOM ADAMS
11 Assistant Director, Regulation

12 ORIGINAL of the foregoing FAXED AND MAILED
13 this 15 day of December 2000 to:

14 David G. Derrikson, PC
15 3636 N Central
16 Ste 1150
17 Phoenix, AZ 85012

18 COPY of the foregoing mailed
19 this 15 day of December 2000 to:

20 Laura Harrington-Zautra, M.D.
21 4162 W. Ivanhoe Court
22 Chandler, AZ 85226

23 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
24 this 15 day of December, 2000, with:

25 The Arizona Board of Medical Examiners
9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

1 COPY of the foregoing mailed by Certified Mail
2 this 15 day of December, 2000, to:

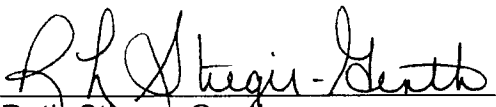
3 Laura Harrington-Zautra, M.D.
4 4162 W. Ivanhoe Court
5 Chandler, AZ 85226

6 COPY of the foregoing mailed by regular post
7 this 15 day of December, 2000, to

8 David G. Derrikson, PC
9 3636 N Central
10 Ste 1150
11 Phoenix, AZ 85012

12 Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered this
13 15 day of December, 2000, to:

14 Richard Albrecht
15 Assistant Attorney General
16 The Arizona Board of Medical Examiners
17 9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road
18 Scottsdale, AZ 85258

19 

20 Ruth Stieger-Gentle
21 Executive Assistant
22
23
24
25